

TRIBUTE TO KATE SWIFT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kate Swift, a recently deceased Connecticut writer who is best known for her tireless work to end sexism in the English language. Kate, a resident of East Haddam, died of abdominal cancer on May 14 at the age of 87.

Born in Yonkers, NY, Kate attended Connecticut College in New London, CT. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1944 with a degree in journalism and spent the next two years in the Women's Army Corps serving as an information and education specialist before being honorably discharged. In 1965 she made her way back to Connecticut to enter the news bureau at Yale University's School of Medicine.

She began her writing career in the 1970s with her companion, Casey Miller, also a writer, who spent some of her career working in naval intelligence. While working with Casey to edit materials for a junior high school sex education program, the two noticed the dominance of male pronouns and references to men. They changed the language in the program to give girls a more prominent role and followed up by publishing their first article on the topic of gender-neutral language.

Kate's proposals gained a great deal of traction over time. Newspapers, textbooks, and public speakers continue to avoid sexist language like "firemen" and "stewardess", instead preferring more gender-neutral references. Articles by Kate and Casey have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and New York magazine on a wide variety of topics relating to sexism in language.

Since moving to East Haddam in 1972, Kate, a sharp intellect and incredibly talented writer, simply couldn't sit still. She was an activist heavily invested in women's rights and gay rights. She was a vocal advocate for Connecticut's marriage equality legislation and worked hard to help bring about its passage into law. She served on the Council of the Rathbun Free Memorial Library, the first Town Charter Commission, as well as the committee of the Connecticut Trails Council of Girl Scouts, and the East Haddam Democratic Town Committee for seventeen years. She traveled all over the world including to China for the UN's Fourth World Conference on Women.

Kate Swift, through her push to end gender discrimination in the English language and tireless activism, demonstrated that she was a true visionary. She was, in many respects, ahead of her time. Kate left her mark by forever changing how we use language and by fighting hard to root out injustice where she found it in the world. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the efforts and honoring the life of this remarkable woman.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAMPUS
SAVE ACT**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce important bipartisan legislation, the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination (SaVE) Act, which would close a serious gap in the law by requiring colleges and universities to clearly spell out their policies regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and will increase awareness and prevention of these acts by requiring transparency of information, prevention programs and assistance for victims. Senator BOB CASEY recently introduced the Senate companion bill (S. 834).

Sexual violence and violence in dating relationships are a serious problem on college campuses across the country. More than one in five female undergraduates will be victims of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault during their time on a campus; only a fraction of incidents are reported and many victims go without adequate institutional support.

The Campus SaVE Act would increase the transparency of reports of sexual violence by institutions to include in their annual security reports statistics on domestic violence, dating violence and stalking that were reported to campus police authorities or local police agencies; promote prevention and bystander responsibility by requiring colleges and universities to develop clear statements of policy regarding domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking prevention programs; ensure victims get the help they need by requiring colleges and universities to provide clear statements regarding their procedures followed when a case of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking is reported and provide victims an explanation of their rights in writing; and requires clear procedures for institutional disciplinary proceedings and provides assistance to institutions to implement these requirements.

This legislation will help ensure our college campuses and universities are safe. I urge my colleagues to support it.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
ILLYRIA**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Illyria, the Albanian-American newspaper. Illyria has been in the forefront of supporting the aspirations of the Albanian people in The Balkans for 20 years.

As the Albanian people of Kosova in the former Yugoslavia emerged from the domination of Serbia, and Albania emerged from the shadow of communism in 1991, Albanian-Americans were in need of information about their homeland, and a common voice to bring their community together. In that time of great transition, Harry Bajraktari, an Albanian immigrant from Kosova who had built a successful

real estate business from scratch in the Bronx, founded and published Illyria, and published it twice weekly in both English and Albanian.

From the beginning, Illyria provided a valuable bridge among Albanians in the U.S. and abroad, and our leaders in the United States. Through the dedication and passion of Mr. Bajraktari and his colleagues, Illyria championed the causes of human rights, democracy and freedom for the people of Albania, Macedonia, Monte Negro and for a free and independent Republic of Kosova. During the Yugoslav wars and the struggles of Albanians in Kosova against the regime of Slobodon Milosevic, Illyria promoted peaceful solutions for Albanians and their neighbors. Diplomats at the United Nations, members of Congress, officials at the State Department, the White House and think tanks in Washington were among those who used Illyria as a resource.

Now in more peaceful times for Albanians, Illyria, true to its immigrant roots, continues to build ties between the Albanians and the United States, promoting friendship between our countries and highlighting the contributions of Albanian immigrants to the United States. The long list of distinguished Albanian-Americans introduced to readers by Illyria includes a Nobel-Prize winner, an engineer who oversaw the flight of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon, a former NASA astronaut who flew into space on the Space Shuttle Endeavour, famous actors, directors and TV personalities, and successful professionals of various fields.

The torch of owning and publishing Illyria was passed from Mr. Bajraktari to Ekrem Bardha, a successful Albanian-American businessmen from Michigan and then to Vehbi Bajrami, a dedicated publisher. Through two decades and three owners, Illyria has been a consistent voice for tolerance and truth. As Ismail Kadare, the internationally-renowned Albanian writer said, Illyria has kept "only one passion as sacred: its dedication to the freedom and the happiness of the Albanian people." Mr. Speaker, these are two of the principles that have made this country the greatest democracy in the world, and which unite Albania and the United States in friendship today.

With thousands of readers from New York to Alaska, Illyria newspaper is truly an American institution—politically independent and true to the best values of American journalism. In short, Illyria embodies the American dream. I join with Harry Bajraktari and with Albanian-Americans in the United States and around the world, in wishing a happy 20th anniversary to Illyria newspaper.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLORHAM PARK
MEMORIAL FIRST AID SQUAD,
INC.**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad of Florham Park, New Jersey on celebrating their 60th Anniversary as of May 30th, 2011.

On May 30th, 1951 the Florham Park Memorial First Aid Squad was dedicated in fond